

THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FREEPORT THE 7TH "COOLEST TOWN" IN AMERICA



Freeport Residents Get Free Access to the Merrick Sanitation Disposal Site: Saving Taxpayers Money

In order to provide more efficient municipal services and safeguard residents in Freeport, Mayor Kennedy negotiated an inter-municipal agreement with Town of Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray. The arrangement provides Freeport Fire Department protection services to a condominium complex located in an unincorporated section of Freeport. In exchange, the Town of Hempstead has reinstated access for Freeport homeowners to its sanitation facility in Merrick. Freeport residents can

return to dropping-off their "bulky debris" and other non-hazardous household waste at the town's sanitation facility at no charge. This cost effective arrangement saves taxpayers money through the combined efforts of both governments working together.

"This agreement is a perfect example of inter-governmental cooperation with no cost to our tax payers. The Board of Trustees thanks Supervisor Murray for her support and assistance," said Mayor Kennedy.

Freeport, New York: America's 7th "Coolest Town"

Being named one of America's coolest towns shouldn't be a surprise. Our diversity, waterways, Nautical Mile, and award winning recreation center are some reasons why Matador Network, the leading travel website in the world, voted us as the 7th coolest town in America. To fit their criteria, communities needed "the cool factor" which they believe are *the people*.

Matador pointed to the way Freeport pulled

together, both municipal and neighborhoods, after the devastation of Superstorm Sandy. Our compassion (community volunteers), resilience (police, fire, emergency management and Electric Department), and recovery (the Nautical Mile) were the bedrock of their decision. "I'm not surprised that we were voted a coolest town," said Mayor Kennedy. "Seeing our village in action every day is living proof."



Freeport Dollars at Work: Road Repair and Road Reconstruction Projects

In 2015, \$6 million dollars of road repairs were completed in Freeport.

The following roads were resurfaced or reconstructed to include new pavement and ADA compliant detectable warning surfaces on curb ramps:

- Pearsall Avenue from Pennsylvania Avenue to North Long Beach Avenue
- Lexington Avenue from South Brookside Avenue to Madison Avenue
- Pine Street from South Brookside Avenue to Madison Avenue
- Queen Street between Prince Avenue and Davis Street
- Davis Street from King Street to Queen Street
- West First Street from the Dead End to South Main Street
- Ray Street from South Long Beach Avenue to South Ocean Avenue
- Nassau Avenue from Front Street to Ray Street
- South Ocean Avenue from Hamilton Street to Front Street
- Prince Avenue from Pennsylvania Avenue to North Long Beach Avenue
- Cary Place from Westend Avenue to South Bayview Avenue





A Message from Mayor Robert T. Kennedy

Deputy Mayor

Jorge A. Martinez

Board of Trustees

Carmen J Piñeyro

Ronald J. Ellerbe

Debra Mulé

Village Justice

V. Roy Cacciatore

Village Clerk

377-2300

Police Department

911 Police (emergency)

378-0700 (nonemergency)

Fire Department

378-0400 (nonemergency)

Public Works

377-2289

Building Department

377-2242

Emergency Management

377-2400

Public Relations

377-2246

Freeport Recreation

377-2314

Dear Fellow Freeporters,

Freeport is on the move! Citing that our financial standing is strong, Moody's Investment Service has upgraded our A-1 rating, expenses continue to be reduced, while non-tax revenues are increasing. The recertification of all village tax-exempt properties has **raised our assessed valuation by \$3 million.**

As with our strong financial standing, our commitment to improve the quality of life in America's "7th coolest town" included initiatives that have produced favorable results. We've revised the village Code to include **the removal of sunken vessels from our waterways** and we established homeowner responsibility to clear collected debris 18" from the curb. Local businesses are remodeling their outdated or blighted storefronts and two of Freeport's high-end car dealerships have committed to multi-million dollar redevelopment projects. The Department of Public works **repaired 11 roads this year**, bringing the total to 24 since 2013. By keeping our village clean and beautiful, we will continue to attract home and business owners who are looking to invest in communities that offer high quality of life standards.

Hosting community events is also an important part of making our village a "cool" place to visit and live. Every summer since 2013, we've hosted six summer nights of free popcorn and family **"Movies by the Bay"** sponsored by Bethpage Federal Credit Union at Sea Breeze Park. This provides family oriented entertainment on the Nautical Mile for audiences young and old. On October 18th, we will host a **Family Fall Festival and Fire Expo** along with more free events to help stimulate our local economy and promote tourism during the fall and winter seasons.

So many positive changes are taking place in Freeport and my door remains open to hear your concerns and comments regarding them. Every Tuesday from 12pm to 5pm, all are invited to come into my office to have a face to face quality of life meeting. For your convenience, a Freeport Board of Trustees member will be available after hours on Tuesdays, from 5pm to 7pm. Always remember, "If you have problems, **WE HAVE RESOLUTIONS!**"

By working together, we will continue to move Freeport in the right direction.

Yours for a Finer Freeport,

Robert T. Kennedy

Mayor

A Warm Welcome: USNA Sail Training Squadron Visit

For 17 years, the United States Naval Academy Midshipmen have made Freeport a port of call and they expressed that Freeport is their favorite. The Freeport Chamber of Commerce, and the USNA Parents club provide food and respite while the village provides accommodations, transportation, and a BBQ for families and veterans. While at port, visitors were able to tour the vessels and ask the cadets questions about the USNA program.



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Freeport Recreation Center: Fall/Winter Fitness & Fun



The Recreation Center's Fall and Winter Schedule has everything for your whole family to stay in shape and have fun.

Winter registration dates are January 9th, 2016, for residents and January 10th, 2016, for non-residents. Adult and Children Programs include art classes, children's basketball, a children's acting program called Broadway and You, fencing, dance classes and quick-start tennis. Fees for eight-week programs are \$45 for residents and \$60 for non-residents.

Membership rates for our full-service Fitness Center, including pools and amenities, are the lowest price in the area. Independent and guided training sessions can be supported. Please call (516) 377-2314 for details.

Also, the Freeport Festival of Trees Contest kicks-off on November 29th and for only \$50, you can sponsor and decorate a tree. Funds collected will support "Toys For Freeport Tots." Trees are displayed in the recreation center lobby where visitors can vote for the best decorated tree.

Freeport Public Works: Quality of Life Enhancement Projects

The Freeport DPW has completed several infrastructure upgrades and began major projects including:

- A **grant of \$250,000** to help replace the deteriorated Waterfront Park bulkhead. The work is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.
- The Freeport Community Development Agency provided a **\$17,988 grant** to plant curbside trees and remove dead or dying trees resulting from Superstorm Sandy.
- A **\$110,000 grant** from the New York State Department of Transportation helped to install 27 new check valves in South Freeport to address nuisance flooding.

Installations are ongoing and successful.

- To decrease Nautical Mile traffic congestion, South Ocean Avenue, Nassau Avenue and Miller Avenue were made one-way. Traffic has improved since then.
- To keep our waterways clean, a **grant of \$87,600** was used to purchase a 21-foot pump-out boat to empty holding tanks in recreational boats. Service is free and available by appointment only. Call (516) 377-2289 for booking.
- Sea Breeze Park – Built three beach volley ball courts and installed additional outdoor exercise equipment.

Freeport EMO & Freeport Electric: Preparations for the Future

Emergency preparedness is a high priority in Freeport. In the near future, Freeport will build a state-of-the-art Emergency Management Center that will be used by the FPD, FFD, and Emergency Management Office to store emergency food rations, generators, blankets, batteries, water, and other provisions to help residents in the event of another natural disaster.

Freeport is one of 13 Long Island communities that received a **\$100,000 grant** for the first phase of the NY Prize Community Microgrid competition from the NYS Energy & Development Authority. Microgrids provide critical energy backup for local community networks during severe power outages.



Summer Youth Employment Program

Working for the Village of Freeport is an experience that taught valuable lessons for village employees and youth between ages 16 to 18. While high school students learned skills related to the service, administrative, and laborer side of Freeport, department managers learned how to enrich the students' lives. Every opportunity to demonstrate work or life skills helped village managers to grow as individuals through embracing each teachable moment.

Photo (L-R): HR Director Conor Kirwan, Pedro Florentino, Robert Young, Gary Ellis, Elijah Johnson, Mayor Kennedy, Serabia Adams, and Rael Swiney.

Dates to Remember: Free, Fun & Cool Events in Freeport



- The Freeport Recreation Center Halloween Party will be on Saturday, October 31st, beginning with a costume Parade at 1:15pm. There will be face painting, cotton candy, a bounce house and a magic show.



- The Freeport Family Fall Festival/Fire Expo will take place on October 18th from 12pm to 7pm. The Freeport Fire Department will display equipment and demonstrate fire-fighting techniques at the Woodcleft Avenue Esplanade. Children's rides will be set-up, and the Halloween costume parade will start at 1pm, beginning at Sea Breeze Park and ending at the Esplanade.
- The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will take place Saturday, December 12th. Santa will arrive at the Recreation Center at 6pm. Santa and Mayor Kennedy will light the front lawn Christmas Tree. Afterward, children can visit with Santa and stay for a performance by The National Circus Project. The Annual Freeport Skate Academy Ice Show begins at 7pm in the "bubble". This is also the last day to submit "Festival of Trees" ballots for "The Best Tree" nominations.

Stay Informed in the Event of an Emergency!

Sign up for Freeport's Swift 911 notifications system to be kept informed of the latest emergency alerts and other important information. Click on "Emergency Management" on our website to enroll for this free service. Notifications and updates can also be obtained by calling the Emergency Management Hotline at (516) 377-2400.

INSIDE FREEPORT VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



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46 North Ocean Avenue
Freeport, NY 11520

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